



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,865	11/26/2003	Peter Chan	139764SV/YOD GEMS:0253	9699
68174	7590	03/24/2010	EXAMINER	
GE HEALTHCARE			SWARTHOUT, BRENT	
c/o FLETCHER YODER, PC				
P.O. BOX 692289			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HOUSTON, TX 77269-2289			2612	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/24/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,865	CHAN, PETER	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brent A. Swarthout	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

Art Unit: 2612

1. For purposes of determining whether a 35 USC 101 rejection should be made, the language “tangible medium” in claim 20 is regarded to mean “non-transitory medium”, and thus, no 35 USC 101 rejection is required.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2,11-12,14-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Medema et al. in view of Roman et al.

Medema discloses a medical communications system for remotely monitoring a medical device from a central station comprising a medical device 12, transceiver 21 and wireless network 16 coupled to device 12 for sending/receiving operation data to a service center 18 and receiving command information from the center, satellite based positioning system (col. 5, line 24) for determining position of medical device, except for specifically stating that medical device is an imaging system.

Roman teaches desirability of monitoring an imaging device from a central station (abstract; col. 1, lines 20-35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to monitor an imaging device as set forth by Roman wirelessly at a remote station such as disclosed by Medema, in order to allow a remote location to determine the location of the imaging device, in case it was necessary to dispatch service personnel to perform maintenance.

Regarding claim 2, Roman teaches mounting medical device on a vehicle (col. 1, line 26).

Regarding claim 12, Medema teaches sending operational data to service center (col. 8, lines 15-25).

Regarding claim 14, Medema teaches use of polling in a medical device monitoring system (col. 13, line 8).

Regarding claim 15, Roman teaches monitoring an MRI device (col. 1, line 30).

Regarding claim 16, since Roman teaches monitoring cooling of MRI device, where cooling material is liquid helium (col. 1, line 31), choosing to use a helium meter would have been obvious in order to tell whether coolant level was at desired level or not.

Regarding claim 17, Medema teaches desirability of encoding operational data (col. 4, line 17). Choosing to use a specific known coding format, such as hexadecimal, would have been obvious, merely depending on type of data and security level that was associated with the system.

Regarding claim 18, Medema teaches transmission of both location and operational data to a remote center (col. 6, lines 15-20; col. 7, line 64).

Regarding claim 19, since Medema teaches use of wireless transmission system 16, choosing to use a system using low orbit satellites would have been obvious, since this is a conventional wireless network infrastructure.

3. Claims 3-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Medema et al. in view of Roman et al. and Miyauchi et al.

Medema and Roman disclose an imaging system monitoring system as set forth above, except for specifically stating that imaging information at a monitor of the imaging system is provided to a display at a service center.

Miyauchi discloses desirability of providing data at an imaging system display 22B to a display 32B at a service center (col. 4, lines 39-50).

It would have been obvious to provide data at an imaging device at a remote location as disclosed by Miyauchi in conjunction with a system as set forth by Medema and Roman, in order to allow service personnel to try and correct problems which were occurring at an imaging device that were known to users at the device.

Regarding claim 4, Roman teaches use of MRI device monitoring (col. 1, line 30).

Regarding claim 8, Miyauchi teaches desirability of monitoring various medical imaging equipment such as MRI, X-Ray, and CT scanning equipment (col. 1, lines 14-19).

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Suzuki, Nee, Knight, Delestienne and Haskin disclose medical device monitoring systems.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brent A. Swarthout whose telephone number is 571-272-2979. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 6:00 to 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached on 571-272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Brent A Swarthout/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2612

Brent A Swarthout
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2612